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LITERATURE CURRICULUM I--TESTS FOR "SHORT STORY" AND "FABLES, PROVERBS, AND PARABLES."

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OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER

LITERATURE CURRICULUM I:

Tests for SHORT STORY

and

FABLES, PROVERBS, AND PARABLES

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TE 000 229

OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER

Test: Short Story

Literature Curriculum I

NOTE:

Students are <u>not</u> permitted to use their books during this test.

Instructions to students:

Answers to the questions are to be recorded on the separate answer sheets provided. PLEASE BE SURE TO USE ONLY <u>SIDE A</u> OF THE ANSWER SHEET, THE SIDE THAT HAS ROOM FOR <u>5</u> CHOICES.

Use a soft lead pencil (#2 of softer) and completely fill the space between the lines for the response you choose as the correct answer. Your score on this test will be the number of correct answers you mark. There is only one best answer for each item.

Sample test item: Who is the chief executive of the United States Government?
(1) The President
(2) The Secretary of State
(3) The Secretary of Defense
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Since the correct answer is 1, the answer sheet is marked like this:

Sample test item:	1	2	3	4	5
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TE 000 239

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"Rip Van Winkle"

1. Why did Washington Irving say that the Catskill Mountains "are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers?"

   (1) Every hour of the day produces some change in their magical hue.
   (2) When the weather is fair they are clothed in blue and purple.
   (3) Every change of season changes the hues and shapes of the mountain.
   (4) The mountains are dismembered branches of the Appalachian Mountains.

2. In the story it says, "A termagant wife may therefore, in some respects, be considered a tolerable blessing: and, if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed." Why was Rip thrice blessed?

   (1) His wife was three times as bad as most nagging wives.
   (2) His wife's virtues taught Rip patience and long suffering on three occasions.
   (3) His wife was bad-tempered and three times she told him to leave the house.
   (4) His wife was simple and good-natured; these virtues Rip acquired.

3. Which of the following best describe Rip at the beginning of the story?

   (1) Rip used to teach children to fly kites, run errands for the good wives, fish contentedly.
   (2) Rip loved to attend to his own business of shooting squirrels and husking Indian corn.
   (3) Rip worked assiduously on his farm.
   (4) Rip refused to help his neighbors who were in trouble.

4. What is meant by the expression, "Their tempers, doubtless are rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation;"?

   (1) The knives become dull and lose their edge for cutting.
   (2) A man's temper becomes sharpened from his wife's tongue lashing.
   (3) A wife's nagging is like a fiery furnace.
   (4) A man loses his will to stand up and argue if he is continually under attack in his home.

5. What excuse did Rip use for not working his farm?

   (1) His health was poor.
   (2) Nature was against him.
   (3) His past efforts reaped discouraging harvests.
   (4) It was a hopeless struggle with little or no chance of success.

6. What is meant by; "Rip's sole domestic adherent was his dog Wolf"?

   (1) A dog is a man's best friend.
   (2) The only thing that believed in him in the village was his dog.
   (3) The only member of his household who cared for him was his dog.
   (4) The only member of his household he liked was his dog.

7. What caused Rip to stroll into the woods up into the heights of the Catskills?

(1) He took his gun to kill squirrels.
(2) He wanted to escape from work and his wife.
(3) He was unable to stay in the house with Wolf.
(4) He heard his name being called.

8. After Rip helped the stranger up the mountain, he fell asleep. Why did he fall asleep?

(1) He was exhausted by the climb.
(2) He decided to sleep in the mountains.
(3) He could not find his way home.
(4) He had drunk some gin which made him sleepy.

9. When Rip awoke from his sleep, he suspected someone of having played a trick on him. Whom did he suspect?

(1) He suspected Wolf.
(2) He suspected the grave roysters of the mountain.
(3) He suspected his old friend Dominie Van Schaick.
(4) He suspected Dame Van Winkle.

10. As Rip approached the village people began stroking their chins. Why did they do this?

(1) This stroking of the chin was a custom of the people to show their displeasure.
(2) The people did not know Rip. It was their way of greeting a stranger.
(3) Rip had grown a long beard.
(4) The Dutch people wore beards. Rip had none. The people were reacting in surprise.

11. Which of the following statements contain the gentle satire which is Irving's trademark?

(1) "and it is a common wish of all hen-pecked husbands . . ., when life hangs heavy . . . that they might have a quieting draught out of Rip Van Winkle's flagon."
(2) "He used to tell his story to every stranger that arrived at Mr. Doolittle's inn."
(3) "he was now a free citizen of the United States."
(4) "Rip now resumed his old walks and habits."

12. Which of the following points of view describes the story?

(1) First person
(2) Third person limited
(3) Third person omniscient
(4) First person and third person.

13. According to the author, what is one of the advantages of old age?

(1) People believe what you say.
(2) You can loaf without being accused of laziness.
(3) You don't have to pay attention to anyone else.
(4) You have time to think about the past.

14. Did Rip Van Winkle really like his wife?

(1) Yes
(2) No
(3) It is impossible to answer the question with a yes or no.

15. How would you classify the story about the "every 20 year vigil of Hendrick Hudson" as a piece of literature?

(1) Fable
(2) Proverb
(3) Parable
(4) Legend

"To Build A Fire"

16. Which of the following is the best reason for Jack London's not giving the man a name in "To Build A Fire"?

(1) The dog was the chief character in the story.
(2) The setting was the most important aspect of the story.
(3) Nature is impersonal. It is no respecter of person.
(4) "To Build A Fire" is a suspense story. The plot is more important than the character.

17. By which of the following ways does the author establish a feeling of the relentless, all-pervading supremacy of the cold?

(1) Through the use of repetition and minute detail
(2) By having the man not mention that it is cold
(3) By showing the dog's actions
(4) By stressing the urgency of the trip.

18. How does the author describe the man in the story?

(1) A typical sourdough tenderfoot who seeks assistance and advice from old-timers.
(2) A confident, self-reliant person who adapts rapidly to the things around him.
(3) A man who is unsure of every move he makes.
(4) A man who does not recognize the smallness of man in the vastness of nature.

19. Which of the following events is the climax of the story?

(1) When he finally lights the fire
(2) When he builds the fire in the wrong place and the falling snow puts it out
(3) When the dog runs away from him
(4) When he loses the matches

20. By the use of contrast and conflict, London builds the suspense of the story. Which of the following exemplifies contrast and conflict?

(1) The sealing of the man's fate by his unimaginative inexperience.
(2) The false hope of survival the man holds.
(3) The predicament of the man against the security of the dog.
(4) The man's refusal to accept his fate.

21. "To Build A Fire" is written in the third person, but Jack London guides the reader to a certain attitude about the man. How does he do this?

(1) He uses dialogue so that the reader hears what the man says.
(2) He guides the reader by explaining the dog's attitude.
(3) He keeps telling the reader how cold it really is.
(4) He tells the reader what the man thinks and how he feels.

22. Which of the following best describes the different attitudes of Irving and London toward their main characters?

(1) London was tolerant toward the man. Irving was vicious toward Rip.
(2) London made fun of the man in a kind way. Irving was sarcastic in his attitude toward Rip.
(3) London was sarcastic toward the man. Irving was indifferent toward Rip.
(4) Irving pointed out Rip's failings lovingly. London disapproved of the man's failings.

23. The title "To Build A Fire" is slightly ironic. Why?

(1) Because a man's life depended on the simple operation of building a fire.
(2) Because it is impossible to build a fire in the Arctic under such conditions.
(3) Because the man didn't know how to build a fire.
(4) Because the dog knew he needed a fire but the man didn't.

24. If "To Build A Fire" has a deeper meaning than just the failure of a man to survive the cruel, cold Arctic, what is it?

(1) It is that the inexperienced should listen to those of experience.
(2) It is that only a few men should ever settle in the Arctic region.
(3) It is that man can never beat his environment.
(4) It is that man should never be alone in the extreme cold.

25. What was the fatal mistake that the man made?
    (1) He took his mittens off.
    (2) He tried to kill the dog.
    (3) He built his fire under a snow-laden tree.
    (4) He chased the dog away.

26. Jack London and Washington Irving use a great deal of descriptive detail. What is the chief difference between the two?
    (1) Jack London uses descriptive detail to focus on one thing--the bitter cold. Irving used it for many purposes.
    (2) Jack London describes the scenery while Washington Irving describes only people.
    (3) Jack London describes people while Irving describes nature.
    (4) There is no great difference. Both describe nature.

"The Tell-tale Heart"

27. Which of the following is the subject matter of "The Tell-tale Heart"?
    (1) Insane fear
    (2) Murder
    (3) Guilt
    (4) Capture

28. At the beginning of the story the murderer tells us that he "heard all things in heaven and in earth." Which of the following is foreshadowed by this statement?
    (1) It foreshadows the murderer's hearing the knocking at the door by the policeman.
    (2) It foreshadows the murderer's hearing the heart beat of the man he murdered.
    (3) It foreshadows the loud cries of the old man.
    (4) It foreshadows the murderer's hearing the planks of the floor creaking.

29. What kind of short story is "The Tell-tale Heart"?
    (1) Suspense story
    (2) Murder story
    (3) Horror story
    (4) Mystery story

30. The point of view from which "The Tell-tale Heart" is told is more effective than any other point of view would have been because:
    (1) The omniscient point of view gives us a chance to understand what is going on in the minds of all the characters.
    (2) The third person limited point of view allows us to understand all the characters as the murderer saw them.
    (3) The author tells the story from his point of view so that we can learn all that he thinks about the characters.
    (4) The first person point of view increases the effect of horror because it gives us a chance to look into an insane mind and see how it works.

31. The murderer says, "It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night." What was the idea?

(1) That he should put the old man's eye out.
(2) That he should be kinder to the old man.
(3) That he should kill the old man.
(4) That he should put a lantern in the old man's room.

32. "And this I did for seven long nights." What did the murderer do for seven long nights?

(1) He put his head in the door to look at the old man sleeping.
(2) He put his head in the door, undid the lantern so a thin ray fell on the man.
(3) He shone the lantern on the old man's face.
(4) He spoke to the old man through the door.

33. What was it that annoyed the murderer about the old man?

(1) It was his groaning and moaning.
(2) It was his vulture eye.
(3) The old man was unkind.
(4) The old man was helpless and sick.

34. What was the noise that filled the murderer with terror when he attempted to kill the old man?

(1) The loud beating of the old man's heart.
(2) The ticking of the clock.
(3) The noise of the floorboards.
(4) The ringing of the doorbell.

35. What did the murderer do immediately after he killed the old man?

(1) He covered him over with the bed.
(2) He put him in the closet.
(3) He cut off the head and the arms and the legs.
(4) He rolled him in a blanket.

36. Why was there "nothing to wash out--no stain of any kind--no blood spot whatever."

(1) The old man didn't bleed.
(2) The murderer choked him to death.
(3) The murderer hit him on the head.
(4) The murderer used a tub to catch the blood.

37. Where did the murderer deposit the body?

(1) He put it in the closet.
(2) He put it under three planks of flooring.
(3) He put it in the bathroom.
(4) He left it under the bed.

38. Why were the officers satisfied at first that the murderer was telling the truth when he said that the old man was in the country?

(1) His manner convinced them.
(2) They searched the house and couldn't find the body.
(3) He talked about other things and they forgot what they had come for.
(4) He showed them a letter supposedly from the old man.

39. At the end of the story the murderer shrieked, "Villains! . . . . I admit the deed . . . ." What made him tell the policemen where the body of the old man was?

(1) The fear caused by the sound of the old man's beating heart.
(2) The fact that he knew they had seen the body.
(3) The fact that he was filled with remorse for having killed the old man.
(4) The fear that the old man might not really be dead.

"The Gift"
The Red Pony

40. There is a certain amount of irony in the title ("The Gift") of the chapter you read from The Red Pony. Why do you think it is ironic?

(1) Because the gift of the pony was actually begrudged by the father.
(2) The joy from the gift was not long lasting.
(3) Jody didn't want the pony; he wanted a dog.
(4) The pony bit Jody.

41. Which of the following descriptions fits Billy Buck?

(1) He was tall and stern.
(2) He had yellow eyes and had lost an ear killing a coyote.
(3) He was a broad, bandy-legged little man with a walrus mustache.
(4) He had dusty yellow hair and shy polite gray eyes.

42. What event do the buzzards foreshadow?

(1) The loss of faith Jody had in Billy Buck.
(2) The death of the red pony.
(3) The illness of the pony.
(4) The stern disciplinary measures of the father.

43. Steinbeck tells us that "Nearly all of his father's presents were given with reservations." Considering the characterization of the father, what does this tell you about him?

(1) That he was mean and grasping.
(2) That he did this so that he could take the gifts back when it pleased him.
(3) That he was a strict disciplinarian.
(4) That he was frugal.

44. Why do you think Carl Tiflin went out of the barn without answering Jody's question "Mine?"

(1) He was in a bad mood and didn't want to be bothered with questions.
(2) He believed that Billy was the one to answer Jody.
(3) He was embarrassed at the boy's joy at getting a pony.
(4) He didn't hear Jody.

45. What does the name Gabilan mean?

(1) Black buzzard
(2) Black mountains
(3) Carrot
(4) Hawk

46. What effect did the gift of the pony have on Jody's friends?

(1) They were all jealous of him.
(2) They were filled with respect and admiration.
(3) They were happy for Jody only if he'd let them ride Gabilan.
(4) They weren't interested at all.

47. Why did Jody want carrots for Gabilan?

(1) Because Gabilan liked carrots.
(2) Because Jody thought carrots were good for the horse's eyes.
(3) Because Jody thought carrots were good for the horse's coat.
(4) Because carrots kept his hoofs soft.

48. What was one of the self-induced pains Jody had?

(1) He thought how the rats had gnawed ragged holes in the red saddle.
(2) He thought that Gabilan might go off to join wild horses.
(3) He was afraid Gabilan would die.
(4) He was afraid his father might sell the horse.

49. Why was Jody proud of Gabilan when he went to the water-trough?

(1) A fine spirited beast put his whole nose and mouth under the water and left room only to breathe. Gabilan drank this way.
(2) Gabilan touched his lips to the water; this was a sign of a fine spirited horse.
(3) Gabilan refused to drink from the water-trough as he knew the water was contaminated.
(4) Gabilan bit Billy Buck and settled back and seemed to laugh to himself.

50. What did Billy tell Jody to do to get the pony used to the bit?

(1) He told Jody to use syrup on the bit.
(2) He said to use a stick of licorice.
(3) He said to use a carrot.
(4) He said to hold his tongue down.

OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER

FABLES, PROVERBS, AND PARABLES

TEST

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FABLES, PROVERBS, AND PARABLES

1. What is the main purpose for which fables were originally composed?

(1) To point out a basic truth about life.
(2) To bring about changes in conduct.
(3) To teach a lesson about animals.
(4) To entertain those who heard it.

2. Which of the following does one always expect to find in a fable?

(1) Strength
(2) Humor
(3) Weakness
(4) Message

3. Which of the following probably accounts for the similarities in fables which are known to have originated in different countries?

(1) The fables were told by story-tellers who wandered from country to country.
(2) Merchants and sailors carried fables from one land to another in their trades.
(3) Similarities appeared because many of the fables were written down and translated by the same individuals.
(4) Their composers had a limited language and could only express a few primitive ideas, many of which were the same.
(5) The experiences which faced those who made them up were probably very much alike.

4. Which of the following lands contributed most to our present store of fables?

(1) India and Arabia
(2) Greece and India
(3) Egypt and Greece
(4) Arabia and Egypt

5. Which of the following does a story-teller use to make his fables most effective?

(1) He uses animals which can talk like human beings.
(2) He tries to tell his story in as simple language as possible.
(3) He makes the fables short enough so that the listener is not bored.
(4) He chooses a setting and characters which are familiar to those who hear the fable.

6. Why have fables always seemed to be a very popular literary form?

(1) Because they are concerned with familiar characters and human values.
(2) Because people have always liked to imagine that animals can talk with each other.
(3) Because fables have been told and written in such a way that they can easily be understood.
(4) Because fables are told and written in the form of a story.
(5) Because fables lend themselves equally to the form of prose or that of verse.

7. In "The Fox and the Grapes" (page 1), why does the author use a colon and dashes at the end of line 7 rather than just a comma or semicolon?

(1) Because a colon is the correct punctuation in this particular instance.
(2) Because he probably wishes to call attention to the line which follows.
(3) Because he has reached the climax of the story he is telling.
(4) Because he wishes to emphasize the grief of the animal in the story.

8. In lines 2 and 3 of "The Fox and the Grapes," the words agape for mean

(1) anxious for
(2) desirous of
(3) hungry for
(4) longing for

9. In line 7 of "The Fox and the Grapes," the word composed means

(1) soothed
(2) freed
(3) disposed
(4) formed

10. Why does the fox utter the words in the last line?

(1) Saying the words makes the fox feel better because they compose his grief.
(2) They tell the reader the real reason the fox did not want the grapes.
(3) The fox justifies his walking away without the grapes.
(4) The story-teller wants the reader to know why the fox no longer wanted the grapes.

11. What lesson may be learned from "The Fox and the Grapes"?
(1) We should not be so proud that we cannot admit defeat.
(2) Foxes in general are cunning, but they can be defeated.
(3) We should not try to reach for something beyond our grasp.
(4) Foxes are willing to work hard for food, but sometimes they must give up.

12. What contribution to our present store of fables did Jean de la Fontaine make?
(1) He adapted many of the older fables in order to teach a Christian moral.
(2) He took the older versions of many fables and rewrote them in verse form.
(3) He introduced a new style and used it in writing tables during the Middle Ages.
(4) He translated many fables from their original language into French, thus making them easier to come into the English language.

13. Where is the most important difference between the two versions of "The Milkmaid"?
(1) In the lessons which the two versions illustrate.
(2) In the time of the writing of the two versions.
(3) In the manner in which the two versions are written.
(4) In the personalities of the main characters of the two versions.

14. Which of the following contains the climax of the first version of "The Milkmaid"?
(1) "A milk-pail balanc'd on her head." (line 6)
(2) "She jump'd for joy. . ." (line 18)
(3) ". . . and green grass was silver'd with a milky stream. . ." (lines 18 and 19)
(4) "For man, the way of life is best that trusts futurity the least." (lines 29 and 30)

15. In line 13 of the second version of "The Milkmaid," what is the best meaning for the phrase, "far from her purpose"?
(1) Far from selling the milk
(2) Far outside the city limits
(3) Far from her horse
(4) Far from her daydreams

16. Which piece of advice does the first version of "The Milkmaid" offer?
(1) "Don't cry over spilled milk."
(2) "Little drops do an ocean make."
(3) "Act in the living Present."
(4) "The present is big with the future."

17. Why is the mood of the second version of "The Milkmaid" so different from that of the first version?
(1) It was written for a different purpose.
(2) The lesson it attempts to teach is more serious.
(3) It was written in prose form rather than in lilting verse.
(4) The time and place of the second version calls for a serious mood.

18. In line 15 of the second version of "The Milkmaid," the word earthly means
(1) material
(2) solid
(3) serious
(4) soiled

19. In the last line of "The Dog in the Manger" (pages 2 and 3,) what does the word enjoy mean?
(1) experience
(2) accept
(3) employ
(4) consume

20. The teller of the fable is interested in calling attention to people's
(1) behaviors.
(2) weaknesses.
(3) strengths.
(4) virtues.

21. Which of the following is best illustrated by "The Lion and the Mouse" (page 4)?
(1) "I do honor the very flea of his dog."
(2) "Usefulness is not limited by size."
(3) "He hath made the small and the great, and careth for all alike."
(4) "Little bodies have great souls."
(5) "The lion is not so fierce as they paint him."

22. What is the primary difference between the first two versions of "The Tortoise and the Hare" (pages 10 and 11)?
(1) There are more animal characters in the second version.
(2) The language used in the second version is less serious.
(3) The sentence structure of the two versions is different.
(4) The two versions were written for different reasons.

23. What is the main difference between a proverb and the statement of a moral in a fable?
(1) The proverb is stated in a more direct manner.
(2) The manner in which the proverb is stated is different.
(3) The content of a proverb tends to be different.
(4) The moral in a fable applies to animals as well as humans.

24. In the first proverb on page 17, what does the word haughty mean?
(1) high
(2) noble
(3) vain
(4) happy

25. In the third proverb on page 17, the word tilleth means
(1) plows
(2) works
(3) toils
(4) seeds

Quoted immediately below are five proverbs you have read. Items 26 through 29 describe different individuals who might profit from the advice offered in all or part of one of the five proverbs. After reading each description, select the proverb which you would give to the individual and indicate your selection on your answer sheet.

(1) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

(2) He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

(3) The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

(4) Boast not thyself of tomorrow;
For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

(5) A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,
And loving favour rather than silver and gold.

26. A student who gets away with cheating on an examination.

27. A young college man who risks his reputation by taking a well-paying but "shady" job upon graduation.

28. A girl who refuses to look for work during her summer vacation even though she comes from a poor family and needs new clothes for the fall.

29. A man who everyday boasts about how good his games of golf are.

30. What kind of ideas are usually expressed in a parable?
(1) spiritual
(2) human
(3) humorous
(4) natural

31. Which of the following proverbs could logically follow from "The Parable of the Sower"?
(1) "No good seed can come of evil grain."
(2) "Forbear not sowing because of birds and rocks and thorns and lack of rain."
(3) "Sow thy thoughts in fertile minds that they there may take root and flourish."
(4) "He that sows in the highway loses his corn."
(5) "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap."

32. Which of the following is true of parables in general?
(1) They illustrate the weaknesses of human character.
(2) They are used to make it easier to understand concepts which have been taught.
(3) They point out a lesson which may be of value to many people under many different circumstances.
(4) The moral they illustrate is generally on a high level of human endeavor.

33. In the parable of the "Good Samaritan," why didn't the priest or the Levite stop to help the man who had been robbed?
(1) They probably did not want to take the chance of becoming involved.
(2) They were probably in a hurry because they were officials of the church.
(3) They were afraid that the man might soil their holy robes.
(4) They feared that, since the man had no money, he might try to rob them.

34. Why did Jesus speak the "Parable of the Gold Pieces" at the particular time he did?
(1) Because He wished to warn his faithful followers.
(2) Because He did not want his followers to expect too much.
(3) Because He wanted to calm his followers down before entering Jerusalem.
(4) Because He did not wish to enter Jerusalem before He was supposed to.

35. Which of the following does the "Parable of the Gold Pieces" emphasize?
(1) The advantage gained by saving money and putting it in a bank.
(2) The amount of money which one can accumulate in a short time.
(3) The way money is used is important, not the mere possession of it.
(4) The proper attitude toward using money for purposes of profit.

Items 36 through 40 contain groups of four words you have probably encountered in this unit. In each group, there is one word which does not belong with the others. After you have identified this word, indicate your selection on your answer sheet.

36. (1) conduct
(2) behavior
(3) sower
(4) truth

37. (1) purpose
(2) moral
(3) message
(4) dialogue

38. (1) fable
(2) teaching
(3) indirect
(4) people

39. (1) wisdom
(2) form
(3) style
(4) language

40. (1) lilting
(2) parable
(3) bantering
(4) tone